

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for reasons not relating to patentability, and Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-20, 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,702,342 to Metzler *et al.* Additionally, the Examiner indicated that Claims 22, 24-26, 28-33 and 38 were allowed, and that Claims 6, 11, 21, 34, 36, 39 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the claims from which they correspondingly depend. Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

In this regard, while Applicant disagrees with the asserted basis of rejection, to expedite further processing Applicant has incorporated language from objected-to Claim 34 into Claim 1, and Applicant has incorporated language from objected-to Claim 36 into Claim 12, thereby placing Claims 1-11, 35 and 39, and Claims 12-21, 37 and 40, in condition for allowance.

Applicant further notes that it has added Claims 41-53. In relation to independent Claim 41, Applicant submits that such claim is allowable for the same reasons as previously submitted in relation to independent Claim 1 and further since Claim 41 stipulates that the resilient member is compressible at least in a direction transverse to the retaining member between the retaining member and rotatable member, wherein said transverse compression of the resilient member causes the resilient member to resiliently apply a transverse compressive spring force against and thereby capture the rotatable member in a desired angular orientation. Such feature further distinguishes independent Claim 41 from Metzler *et al.* In this regard, Applicant submits that member 54 in the Metzler *et al.* arrangement is not compressible in a direction transverse to the washers 24, 40 so as to resiliently apply a transverse compressive force against second end portion 52 of post 48. In turn, Applicant submits that independent Claim 41 and Claims 42-53 dependent on independent Claim 41 are also allowable.

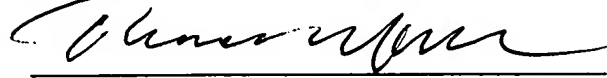
In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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